

(WASHINGTON, DC) - U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that he has secured federal funding to expand access to health care and help law enforcement crack down on crime and improve communications technology in Grimes County. The funding was included in the final 2010 Appropriations bill, which passed the House today by a vote of 221 to 202, and is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law this month.

Edwards secured \$150,000 for the purchase and installation of two clinical monitoring information stations for the emergency room and acute care wing of Grimes St. Joseph Health Center in Navasota. These stations will allow employees to visually monitor multiple patients from one location. Monitoring of vital signs, heart tracing, and saturation will improve patient safety and make the process more efficient for the doctors and nurses serving the patients.

Edwards, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee said, *"Modernizing the emergency room and acute care wing at Grimes St. Joseph Health Center will mean improved health care for Grimes County families. I especially want to commend local leaders for stressing the importance of this high priority project to me. The Grimes St. Joseph Health Center provides quality health care for thousands of families, and I will continue to work with local leaders to support this great community asset."*

Edwards also secured \$100,000 to help the Grimes County Sheriff's Department improve communication between the police department, fire department, EMS, and other emergency personnel by upgrading their repeater and dispatch console. This will ensure quicker response times and more open lines of communication between departments.

"I believe we have an obligation to work closely with local law enforcement to protect our families from criminals. This new equipment will help our officers respond more quickly to emergency calls with the information they need to protect our families," said Edwards.

Sheriff Don Sowell said, *"We are very thankful and pleased that this funding has been made available to Grimes County to enhance communication between first responders, medical personnel, and law enforcement. In a scenario where time is always of the essence, this will go a long way to saving lives in Grimes County. We're extremely thankful to Congressman Edwards and his staff for responding to our needs."*

The \$100,000 added by Edwards to the 2010 bill follows \$776,000 secured by Edwards since 2005 for communications technology upgrades for both the Grimes County Sheriff's Department and the Navasota Police Department.

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